

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY
HONOURABLE MKHONDO D. LUNGU
MP, ON ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL
REGISTRATION CARDS AND THE ON-
GOING MOBILE REGISTRATION
EXERCISE**

JULY 2010

MR. SPEAKER,

I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR ACCORDING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE ON THE CONTINUOUS ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARDS AND THE ON-GOING MOBILE REGISTRATION EXERCISE.

MR. SPEAKER,

ALLOW ME TO INFORM THE HOUSE THAT THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP OFFICE IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ISSUING NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARDS UNDER CAP 126 OF THE LAWS OF ZAMBIA.

CONTINUOUS ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARDS

MR. SPEAKER,

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP OFFICE HAS BEEN ISSUING

NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARDS TO CITIZENS ON CONTINUOUS BASIS SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1965.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A ZAMBIAN TO OBTAIN A GREEN NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARD:-

- (A) APPLICANT MUST BE SIXTEEN (16) YEARS OF AGE OR ABOVE.
- (B) DEPONENT MUST BE A ZAMBIAN AND SHOULD BE A CLOSE RELATIVE TO THE APPLICANT AND HOLDER OF A GREEN NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARD.
- (C) DEPONENT SHOULD BE THIRTY FIVE (35) YEARS OF AGE OR AN AGE DIFFERENCE OF FIFTEEN (15) YEARS BETWEEN THE APPLICANT AND THE DEPONENT.

MR. SPEAKER,

A GREEN NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARD CONFERS CITIZENSHIP ON THE PERSON WHO HAS SO ACQUIRED IT. THIS IN TURN ENABLES THAT PERSON TO ACCESS MANY OTHER SERVICES SUCH AS:-

- (A) THE RIGHT TO ENABLE HIM/HER TO VOTE

- (B) THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN A DRIVING LICENCE
- (C) THE RIGHT TO GET EMPLOYED
- (D) THE RIGHT TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT AND OBTAIN A LOAN
- (E) THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT

THOUGH THE CONTINUOUS ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARDS IS AN ON-GOING EXERCISE, NOT EVERY CITIZEN HAS THE CAPACITY TO TRAVEL TO THE DISTRICT REGISTRATION OFFICE TO ENABLE HIM/HER REGISTER AND ACQUIRE THE GREEN NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARD, OR TO REPLACE THEIR DAMAGED OR LOST CARDS.

MOBILE REGISTRATION

MR. SPEAKER,

IN ORDER TO MITIGATE THE CHALLENGES CITED ABOVE, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP OFFICE CONDUCTS MOBILE REGISTRATION EXERCISE IN ALL THE SEVENTY TWO (72)

DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTRY TO COMPLIMENT THE WORK THAT IS UNDERTAKEN BY THE DISTRICT REGISTRATION OFFICES.

THIS EXERCISE INVOLVES OFFICERS GOING TO THE REMOTEST PARTS OF THE COUNTRY TO ISSUE NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARDS TO CITIZENS ON THE SPOT IN ORDER TO EMPOWER THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS WITHOUT BEING DISFRANCHISED.

MR. SPEAKER,

PREVIOUSLY, THIS EXERCISE USED TO BE CONDUCTED SIX (6) MONTHS OR A YEAR THE BEFORE PRESIDENTIAL AND GENERAL ELECTIONS. I WISH TO STATE THAT THE CURRENT MOBILE REGISTRATION EXERCISE COMMENCED IN JUNE 2009, TWO (2) YEARS BEFORE THE PRESIDENTIAL AND GENERAL ELECTIONS. THE FIRST PHASE OF THE ONGOING MOBILE REGISTRATION EXERCISE BEGUN IN JUNE 2009 AND RAN THROUGH TO SEPTEMBER 2009. THIS EXERCISE COVERED THREE (3) PROVINCES NAMELY; NORTH-WESTERN, WESTERN AND EASTERN PROVINCES. THE SECOND PHASE BEGUN IN OCTOBER 2009. THIS

EXERCISE COVERED NORTHERN, SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL PROVINCES WHILE THE THIRD AND FINAL PHASE BEGUN ON 1ST APRIL 2010 AND IS COVERING LUSAKA, COPPERBELT AND LUAPULA PROVINCE. THE EXERCISE WILL RUN UP TO 30TH JUNE 2010 EXCEPT FOR LUAPULA WHICH WILL RUN UP TO 11TH JULY 2010 BECAUSE OFFICERS IN THIS PROVINCE COMMENCED THE EXERCISE LATE.

SECURITY CONCERNS

IN THE PROCESS OF ISSUING NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARDS, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP OFFICE HAS HAD TO ENSURE THAT NO NON ZAMBIAN ACQUIRES A NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARD. CONSEQUENTLY, REGISTRATION OFFICERS HAVE HAD TO BE ON HIGH ALERT BY ENSURING THAT DEONENTS AND APPLICANTS ARE THOROUGHLY SCREENED AND INTERVIEWED IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN THEIR CITIZENSHIP BY ASKING THEM TO PRODUCE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS SUCH AS BIRTH RECORDS AND UNDER FIVE CARDS. THE QUEST TO BE THOROUGH RESULTS IN DELAYS IN CLEARING THE

QUEUES PARTICULARLY IN DENSILY POPULATED TOWNSHIPS SUCH AS LUSAKA AND SOME TOWNS ON THE COPPERBELT.

HOWEVER, MORE EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE TO QUICKEN THE PROCESS SO THAT OUR NATIONALS ARE ISSUED GREEN NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARDS, WITHOUT UNDUE DELAYS AND COMPROMISING THE SECURITY OF THE NATION, ^{SUCH AS} AND ALSO BY GIVING THE SAME STATUS TO FOREIGNERS.

STATISTICS

Madam

MR. SPEAKER,

THE ON-GOING MOBILE REGISTRATION EXERCISE RECORDED THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASES:-

FIRST PHASE

<u>PROVINCES</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>REGISTERED PERSON</u>
EASTERN	120,000	155,783
NORTH-WESTERN	100,000	83,541
WESTERN	<u>80,000</u>	<u>81,293</u>
TOTAL	<u>300,000</u>	<u>320,000</u>

SECOND PHASE

<u>PROVINCES</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>REGISTERED PERSON</u>
SOUTHERN	100,000	95,200
CENTRAL	<u>120,000</u>	<u>133,344</u>
TOTAL	<u>370,000</u>	<u>405,086</u>

THIRD PHASE AS ON 21ST MAY 2010

<u>PROVINCES</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>REGISTEREDPERSON</u>
LUAPULA	100,000	62,594
COPPERBELT	250,000	151,271
LUSAKA	<u>200,000</u>	<u>151,271</u>
TOTAL	<u>550,000</u>	<u>365,136</u>

MR. SPEAKER,

PRIOR TO THE EXERCISE, THE DEPARTMENT HAD PROJECTED TO CAPTURE ONE MILLION (K1,000,000) PEOPLE AND SO FAR K1,090,222 PEOPLE HAD BEEN ISSUED GREEN NATIONAL REGISTRATION CARDS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE NUMBER WILL BE MUCH HIGHER WHEN THE WHOLE EXERCISE WILL COME TO AN END.

CHALLENGES OF THE ON-GOING MOBILE REGISTRATION
EXERCISE

MR. SPEAKER,

THE MOBILE REGISTRATION EXERCISE WAS AND IS STILL FACED WITH CHALLENGES SUCH AS:-

- (A) CONSTANT BREAKDOWN OF VEHICLES DUE TO BAD ROADS.
- (B) COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWNS AS MOST OF THE PROVINCES HAVE POOR COMMUNICATION FACILITIES THEREBY MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO COLLECT DATA.
- (C) THE VASTNESS OF THE COUNTRY RESULTING IN LONG DISTANCES TO BE COVERED BETWEEN VILLAGES AND DIFFICULTIES IN ACCESSING CERTAIN AREAS. THIS WAS MORE PRONOUNCED IN NORTH-WESTERN AND WESTERN PROVINCES WHERE CERTAIN AREAS ARE WATER LOGGED FOR MOST OF THE YEAR SUCH AS LIUWA AND IMUSHO IN WESTERN PROVINCE AND NABWALYA IN NORTHERN PROVINCE WHICH IS MOUNTAINOUS.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION

MR. SPEAKER,

AN AMOUNT OF FIFTEEN BILLION KWACHA (K15,000,000,000) WAS RELEASED FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF THE MOBILE REGISTRATION EXERCISE THROUGH WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAD TARGETED TO REGISTER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND (300,000) PEOPLE WHILE IN THE SECOND PHASE THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED SEVENTEEN BILLION KWACHA (K17,000,000,000) WHICH WAS MEANT TO BE UTILIZED TO REGISTER THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND (335,000) PEOPLE.

THE THIRD AND FINAL PHASE WILL GOBBLE TWENTY TWO BILLION KWACHA (K22,000,000,000) THROUGH WHICH THE DEPARTMENT IS ANTICIPATING TO CAPTURE FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND (550,000) PEOPLE.

MR. SPEAKER, FUNDS WHICH WERE RELEASED FROM THE TREASURY FOR THE MOBILE EXERCISE FOR ALL PHASES WERE USED TO:-

- (A) PROCURE MATERIALS SUCH AS CAMERAS, PLASTIC POUCHES, FILMS, GENERATORS AND FUEL.
- (B) TRANSPORT IE, PROCUREMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES/MAINTENANCE.
- (C) SENSITIZATION OF PEOPLE THROUGH ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA; AND
- (D) ALLOWANCES FOR OFFICERS IN THE FIELD.

CONCLUSION

MR. SPEAKER,

I WISH TO STATE THAT AT THE END OF THE THIRD PHASE, AN EVALUATION OF THE WHOLE EXERCISE WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHICH AREAS REQUIRE TO BE REVISITED DUE TO THE AFOREMENTIONED CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED DURING THE THREE (3) PHASES.

MAY I THEREFORE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK CHURCHES, THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS, TRADITIONAL LEADERS/HEADMEN, OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND ALL

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE SUPPORT RENDERED
TO THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS DURING THIS
EXERCISE.

I THANK YOU SIR.